

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:I M SILINS
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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, OVIP (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE), ETRD, EFIN,
SHUM, CPRS, RO

SUBJECT: NIMETZ-NICOLAE MEETING, APRIL 25: CEAUSESCU
VISIT FOLLOW-UP

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE SAID HIS PERSONAL ASSESS-
MENT OF THE CEAUSESCU VISIT WAS POSITIVE AND HE THOUGHT THE
POLITICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD SHORTLY ISSUE A FAVOR-
ABLE OFFICIAL ASSESSMENT. HE ATTRIBUTED PARTICULAR IMPORT-
ANCE TO THE LONG PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS AND
THEIR AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE DIRECT AND PRIVATE CORRESPOND-
ENCE. NICOLAE URGED MORE HIGH-LEVEL VISITS FROM THE U.S.
SIDE. HE RECOGNIZED A CONTINUING NEED TO INFORM INTERESTED
PARTIES IN THE U.S. ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE HUNGARIAN
MINORITY IN ROMANIA. COUNSELOR NIMETZ SAID THAT PRESIDENT
CARTER PERSONALLY ENJOYED CEAUSESCU'S VISIT AND ESTABLISHED
GOOD RAPPORT WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPLAIN AGAIN THE U.S. POSITION ON FISH ALLOCATIONS FOR
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ROMANIA, PRESSED FOR MOVEMENT ON PENDING PROPERTY CLAIMS,
AND ASKED FOR A REPLY TO OUR NOTE ON THE TUDOR INHERITANCE
CLAIM. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CALLED ALONE ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ
APRIL 25 FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING THE CEAUSESCU
VISIT. U.S. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRET-

ARY LUERS AND DESK OFFICER SILINS. NICOLAE SAID HE HAD NO OFFICIAL REACTION FROM BUCHAREST ON CEAUSESCU'S VISIT BUT THAT HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT WAS POSITIVE, AND HE POINTED TO DETAILED AND FAVORABLE ROMANIAN PRESS COVERAGE. HE ATTRIBUTED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE LONG PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS AND SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE AND CONTACT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS WAS A NEW STEP IN HIGH-LEVEL US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS. NICOLAE SAID HE EXPECTED DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO FOLLOW UP ON THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. IN THE MEANTIME, HE SEES A NEED TO IMPROVE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE FORM OF HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIAL VISITS TO ROMANIA. NIMETZ SAID HE AGREED TO THE USEFULNESS OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS AND NOTED THAT AN EXIMBANK DIRECTOR WOULD BE VISITING ROMANIA SHORTLY. HE SAID THIS WOULD PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ROMANIA TO EXPLORE INCREASED USE OF EXIMBANK FACILITIES.

3. NICOLAE SAID HE RECOGNIZED A NEED TO MAKE MORE CLEAR THE ROMANIAN POSITION ON THE SITUATION OF THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY. HE SAID THAT NOT ALL AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAD MET WERE CRITICAL OF ROMANIA, BUT THE CRITICAL SEGMENT IS THE MOST VOCAL GROUP.

NICOLAE SAID THAT ROMANIA
SIMPLY WISHED TO PAINT THE SITUATION OBJECTIVELY AND DID
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NOT CLAIM TO HAVE SOLVED ALL PROBLEMS CONCERNING MINORITIES IN ROMANIA. HE SAID THAT NO COUNTRY HAS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. NIMETZ POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE BEEN MAKING THIS CLEAR FROM THE START. WE ALSO HAVE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO MINORITY GROUPS. WITH RESPECT TO THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY, WE SEE THESE AS BASICALLY PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY ROMANIANS IN ROMANIA.

4. NICOLAE ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S VISIT AND INQUIRED WHAT THE NEXT STEPS WOULD BE WITH RESPECT TO RENEWING THE TRADE AGREEMENT. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY ENJOYED MEETING PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. HE AGREED THAT THE LONG PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS WAS UNUSUAL AND INDICATED A GOOD DEGREE OF RAPPORT BETWEEN THEM. HE SAID HE WOULD SEEK A FULLER ASSESSMENT FROM SECRETARY VANCE, WITH WHOM HE HAD ONLY A BRIEF CONVERSATION FOLLOWING THE VISIT BECAUSE OF THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL.

5. WITH RESPECT TO PENDING ITEMS, NIMETZ POINTED TO THE COMING EXIMBANK VISIT AND URGED ROMANIA TO FOLLOW UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR WIDER USE OF EXIM CREDITS. NIMETZ SAID

CEAUSescu WILL BE RECEIVING A LETTER SHORTLY FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WITH RESPECT TO EXPORT CONTROLS. ON FISHERIES, HE REITERATED THAT THE DECISION LEADING TO NO RPT NO ALLOCATION FOR ROMANIA THIS YEAR WAS NOT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED BUT RESULTED PURELY FROM A DESIRE TO CONSERVE FISH RESOURCES. NIMETZ SAID THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE HAD MET A SYMPATHETIC REACTION FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO MODIFYING THE REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF MFN AND HE WOULD PURSUE THIS MATTER IN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS.

6. NIMETZ SAID HE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY COUNSELOR PUNGAN'S RESPONSE (DURING THE VANCE-ANDREI MEETING) WHEN ASKED ABOUT PROPERTY CLAIMS. HE SAID THIS SEEMED TO BE A CONFIDENTIAL

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STEP BACK FROM THE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH FORMER TRADE MINISTER PATAN. PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THIS QUESTION COULD COME UP IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, NIMETZ SAID IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE SOME MOVEMENT ON THE CASES THAT HAVE BEEN FORMALLY PRESENTED TO THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT. NICOLAE ASKED FOR A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF PUNGAN'S COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WE WILL GIVE HIM.

7. NIMETZ COMMENTED THAT ROMANIAN REQUESTS FROM THE U.S. ARE OFTEN FOR SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS. U.S. REQUESTS FROM ROMANIA TEND TO BE MORE MODEST - FOR EXAMPLE, FOR PROGRESS ON EMIGRATION CASES, PROPERTY CLAIMS, AN INHERITANCE CLAIM. PERHAPS BECAUSE THESE DO NOT ALWAYS REACH THE ATTENTION OF HIGH OFFICIALS, THERE IS SOMETIMES NO PROGRESS. NICOLAE RESPONDED BY POINTING TO THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA TO THE U.S. AND THE FRG. HE ADMITTED THAT EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL HAD DECLINED LAST YEAR BUT QUOTED PRESIDENT CEAUSescu AS SAYING THAT IN 1977 ONLY 20 APPLICATIONS BY ROMANIAN JEWS TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL HAD BEEN DENIED; ALL OTHERS HAD BEEN APPROVED. NICOLAE SAID THAT DURING ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S APRIL VISIT TO BUCHAREST, IT HAD BEEN AGREED TO "SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS" RELATED TO EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. NICOLAE SAID THAT SOME AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS WHO MET WITH CEAUSescu WERE URGING THAT ROMANIA ACTIVELY PROMOTE EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. THE ANSWER HAD TO BE "NO." ONLY DURING THE NAZI ERA HAD ROMANIAN JEWS BEEN ENCOURAGED TO LEAVE. NIMETZ SAID THIS WAS NOT AT ALL THE ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE; WE ONLY WISH TO SEE THAT ALL WHO DESIRE TO EMIGRATE CAN DO SO.

8. NICOLAE COMMENTED THAT SOME MARRIAGE CASES ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE, RAISED AGAIN THE NEED FOR PARENTAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSENT, AND DESCRIBED (NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME) THE CASE OF A ROMANIAN WOMAN WHO HAD COME TO THE U.S. ONLY TO BE REJECTED BY HER PROSPECTIVE SPOUSE AS A "SPY."

9. NIMETZ URGED NICOLAE TO SEE THAT WE RECEIVE A RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF DECEMBER 6, 1977 ON THE TUDOR INHERITANCE CLAIM. NICOLAE SAID HE HAS DISCUSSED THE CASE WITH TUDOR'S LAWYERS, PERSONALLY FEELS TUDOR DOES NOT HAVE A VALID CLAIM, AND BELIEVES THE CASE FALLS UNDER ROMANIAN LEGAL JURISDICTION. HE SAID HE HAS URGED TUDOR'S LAWYER RIPOSANU TO PURSUE THE MATTER IN ROMANIAN COURTS. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE LACK OF A ROMANIAN RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE PUTS US IN A VERY AWKWARD POSITION AND THAT THE MATTER COULD WELL COME UP AT THIS YEAR'S CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. VANCE

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